



COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2022

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically

Honorable Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive
Honorable Gabe Alborno, President, Montgomery County Council
Raymond Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on People with Disabilities is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. We continue to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the safety and well-being of an estimated 91,129 people with disabilities who live in the County, according to the 2021 U.S. Census Bureau. We continue to work to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

1. The safety of all pedestrians remains a major concern of our Commission. The recently updated Vision Zero data showing a rise in severe injuries and deaths amongst pedestrians despite a pandemic-related decrease in vehicular traffic is alarming. The Commission is willing and able to provide input to help assure that pedestrian travel-way design changes include consideration of the needs of all pedestrians including those with disabilities. Our input early in the design process will permit a thorough consideration of the challenges faced by people with disabilities before plan development and subsequent finalization. We can help with proposed changes in sidewalks, bicycle lane design, scooter use planning and program design, sidewalk construction and all other pedestrian transportation design considerations. We recognize that plans developed by MCDOT attempt to take into consideration the safety needs of people with disabilities but recognize an unintentional, ableism bias that limits the effectiveness of proposed plans as currently being developed. Our early involvement may avoid the need for costly retrofitting and reconstruction.
2. We also appreciate the ongoing review of the Transportation Services Improvement Fund Disbursement guidelines. Use of this fund to promote availability of accessible taxi service in the County requires reconsideration and revitalization.
3. The Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee provides enhanced communication between the Executive and legislative branches, the Developmental Disabilities Administration and non-profits. The Commission is recommending that the County establish an appointed and confirmed Developmental Disability Advisory Council to advise the County and State.
4. If you are looking for information available to you on a broad range of disability issues including such information as how to apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration or Caregiver Support go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/disability.

We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication in promoting the civil rights and independence of people with disabilities. It has been a pleasure to work with you and members of the Commission. We are confident that you will continue to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the lives of people with disabilities in our County. Our meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to join us for any and all meetings.



Seth Morgan
Seth Morgan, MD
Chair



Patricia A. Ballalee
Trish Gallalee
Vice-Chair

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership List	3
Online Disability Resources Provided by the Commission	3
About the Commission	4
Commission Presentations 2021 - 2022	5
What the Americans with Disabilities Act Means	6
FY24 Operating Budget Priorities	7 - 8
FY23 Operating Budget Testimony	9
Who Has A Disability in Montgomery County, Maryland?	10
Montgomery County Public Schools Special Education	11
Developmental Disability Resources and Information	12
Community Support Network	13
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiting List	13
Autism Waiver Waiting List	13
Community Support Network FY23 Budget and Breakdown by Program	14
Montgomery College Workforce Development & Continuing Education	15
Design for Life Property Tax Incentive Program & At-A-Glance Information Sheet	16 - 17
Disability Network Directory	18
Commission on People with Disabilities Commemorates 44th Year	19 - 20
Montgomery County COVID-19 Pandemic Information Portal	21
Text-to-911 Now Available in Maryland	21
Safety and Emergency Resources	22
How to Contact Your Elected Officials	23



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Aging & Disability Services - Aging & Disability Resource Unit



Provides hands-on assistance, referrals to service, and information to adults 60+, caregivers and persons with disabilities of any age. It is the primary entry point for most DHHS Aging and Disability services.

240-777-3000 (Voice) • MD Relay 711 • 240-777-4000 (Emergency After Hours)

Email: ADS@montgomerycountymd.gov • www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

Hours: Monday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP LIST - 2022

PUBLIC VOTING MEMBERS

Seth A. Morgan, M.D., Chair
Patricia Gallalee, Vice-Chair
Jametia Anderson
Neal Carter
Myra Coffield
Mario Damiani
Kaylee Davis

Marissa Ditkowsky
Tonya Gilchrist
Michael Greenberg
Mandy McCarthy
David Rice
Avner Shapiro
Jeneva Stone

ORGANIZATION / AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES VOTING MEMBERS

Eric Cole, *Dandy-Walker Alliance, Inc.*
Tom Liniak, *Jewish Social Services Agency*
Karen Morgret, *Treatment and Learning Centers*
Eric Salzano, *Community Services for Autistic Adults & Children*
Richard Shermanski, *American Speech-Language Hearing Association*
John Whittle, *Consultant, Service Coordination, Inc.*
Najla Wortham, *The Rock Creek Foundation*

NON-VOTING MEMBERS - PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Matthew Barkley, *ADA Title II Compliance Manager, Department of General Services*
Bob Green, *M-NCPCC, Montgomery Parks*
Simone Geness, *Montgomery County Public Schools*
Angelisa Hawes, *Montgomery County Public Libraries*
Karen Hochberg, *Targeted Recruitment Specialist, Office of Human Resources*
Denise Isreal, *Department of Transportation*
Angela Luskey, *Department of Recreation*
Susan Smith, *Housing Opportunities Commission*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - STAFF MEMBERS

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*
Carly Clem, *Administrative Specialist I*

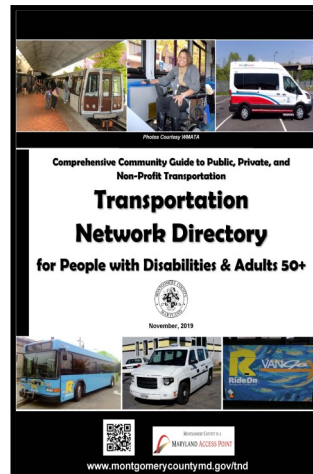
Online Disability Resources Provided by the Commission

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISABILITY WEBSITE: If you are looking for information available to you on a broad range of disability issues including such information as how to apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration or Caregiver Support go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/disability



DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY: A directory of provider agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations that offer local, state and national resources for people with disabilities. The Disability Network Directory is available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK DIRECTORY: Comprehensive listing of public, private and non-profit transportation in the Washington Metropolitan Region, State of Maryland and beyond. Includes information for people with disabilities and adults 50+. This guide was compiled to assist County residents to better coordinate their transportation needs. To download a copy of the guide visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd.



To request alternative formats of these publications, please call 240-777-1252 (V), MD Relay 711, or email MCCPWD@montgomerycountymd.gov.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Commission on People with Disabilities was established by County legislation October 17, 1978 to advise the County Executive and County Council on the coordination and development of the County's policies affecting residents with disabilities.

MISSION

The Commission provides advice, counsel, and recommendations to the Government of Montgomery County, Maryland in general, the County Executive, and the County Council in particular. Its responsibilities involve those matters influencing the provision of services, County policies and procedures, development and implementation of state and federal laws, and any other issues affecting the lives, rights, and welfare of the people it represents. The Commission operates in belief that people with disabilities have the right to the same opportunities in life as people without disabilities; and that this right can best be ensured by a commitment to enhancing the image, status, and quality of life of all children and adults with disabilities.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on People with Disabilities is composed of 25 voting members who serve in a volunteer capacity. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The Commission includes:

- ▶ 13 people with disabilities,
- ▶ 3 parents of people with disabilities, and
- ▶ 9 representatives of public and private service providing agencies

The Commission also includes ex-officio members that are appointed to represent the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, Recreation, Libraries, General Services, Office of Human Resources, and the Human Rights Commission. There are also members who represent Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, Housing Opportunities Commission, Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services, and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission/Montgomery Parks.

MEETINGS

All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. The Commission welcomes visitors to join us as we serve the County and its residents. Meetings are subject to change without advance notice. Please call to confirm day and time of meetings and to request any special accommodations. As possible, we adjust meeting dates in order to accommodate days of major religious observances. You can view the Commission meeting minutes or check meeting schedules times online at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022 - 2023

Full Commission Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month,
except for July and August
Via Zoom
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the month
Via Zoom
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Workgroups

Meet, as needed, at differing locations.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission operates through a structure that is re-evaluated annually to respond to changing needs. The Steering Committee is responsible for planning and directing the activities of the Commission and for overseeing the activities of the committees.

The work of the Commission is done by Commission members and interested persons from the community. In addition, coordinators are assigned to take lead responsibility for public relations and legislation. The Nominating and Selection Committees, required for administration purposes, were also established.

The Commission encourages that all residents with disabilities and their families communicate with their elected officials about their needs for programs and services. Go to the Office of Governmental Relations website for information on how to contact your elected officials: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIR.

INCLUSION MONTGOMERY

Dedicated to the inclusion of people with disabilities in our community. We believe that people with disabilities have a right to equitable treatment, a fair allocation of community resources and social connectedness through engagement in the community at the level of their choice. Self-determination and supporting caregiver families should be at the core of short or long-term support planning. Individuals indicate their need for transportation, medical, legal, housing, respite, employment, volunteerism and leisure activities and the activities that will make for a meaningful day. We are dedicated to planning with, for, and serving the whole community regardless of disability, race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic status, family responsibilities, gender identity, presence of children, and family structure or any other characteristic.



Sign up for eSubscribe to receive emails about disability information and resources:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery

COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2020 - 2021

- October 2021:** **Employment Initiatives to Promote Hiring of People with Disabilities** – *Cynthia Grissom, Director, Business Solutions, WorkSource Montgomery, Inc., and Karen Hochberg, SPHR Targeted Recruitment Job Specialist, Office of Human Resources, Montgomery County Government*
-
- November 2021:** **MedStar Health Shift to Telemedicine to Enhance Access & Hospital Visitation Policies** – *Pegeen A. Townsend, Vice President, Government Affairs, MedStar Health*
- Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS): Priorities and Waiting List** – *Beth Lash, Regional Director*
-
- December 2021:** **Fenton Street Bikeway and Pedestrian Improvements** – *Matt Johnson, AICP Capital Project Manager, Division of Transportation Engineering, Montgomery County Department of Transportation*
- Maryland State Legislative Issues and Communicating with your Elected Officials** – *Delegate Marc Korman, Maryland House of Delegates*
-
- January 2022:** **Discussion on Your Concerns and Priorities** – *The Honorable Gabe Albornoz, President, Montgomery County Council*
- Montgomery Parks Community Engagement for Park Projects** – *Darren Flusche, Acting Division Chief, Park, Planning & Stewardship Division; Hyojung Garland, Supervisor, Park, Planning and Stewardship Division, and Chuck Kines, Planner Coordinator, Park, Planning & Stewardship Division*
-
- February 2022:** **Thrive 2050: Montgomery Park and Planning** – *Khalid Afzal, Special Projects Manager, General Plan Update, Montgomery County Planning Department and Marybeth Dugan, Program Access (Inclusion Services) M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks*
-
- March 2022:** **The Key Issues That The Maryland Department of Disabilities is Working On** – *Carol Beatty, Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities*
-
- April 2022:** **Update on Montgomery Parks and ADA Compliance** – *Bob Green, Senior ADA Compliance Project Manager, Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC*
-
- May 2022:** **Pedestrian Master Plan Discussion** – *Eli Glazier, Transportation Planner Coordinator, Montgomery County Planning Department*
-
- June 2022:** **MCPS Transitioning Youth Overview** – *Simone Geness, Supervisor, Transition Services Unit, Office of Special Education, Montgomery County Public Schools*
- Police Interaction with Vulnerable Populations** – *Rob Landau, Silver Spring Justice Coalition*
-
- Sept 2022:** **Assistive Technology and You** – *James A. Whitney, OTR/L, OTD, Assistive Technology Clinician, Assistive Technology Program, MD Department of Disabilities*
- Pedestrian Master Plan Discussion** – *Eli Glazier, Transportation Planner Coordinator, Montgomery County Planning Department*

WHAT THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT MEANS

Montgomery County, MD Commission on People with Disabilities What the Americans with Disabilities Act Means July 22, 2022

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is landmark civil rights legislation that was signed into law 32 years ago on July 26, 1990. But, the history of the disability movement and the ADA did not begin at the signing ceremony at the White House in 1990.

The fight for disability rights began more than 70 years ago in the 1950's when parent groups throughout the country refused to accept that institutionalization was the only option for their children who had a disability. They wanted their children to lead fulfilling lives in the community and not shuttered away in dark institutions.

In the 1960s, people with disabilities began to take charge of their own advocacy organizations and moved away from the patriarchal and charity-based model that dominated many existing disability organizations. Additionally, people with various types of disabilities began to join together in their advocacy efforts. It became apparent that the old system of single disability organizations had separated people with disabilities from each other resulting in advocacy that too often contradicted each other.

The wave of self-advocacy led to the establishment of local groups like the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities, established in 1978, to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The history of the ADA and the Commission is a testament to the movement's commitment to solidarity among people with different disabilities. The Commission was established to be a cross disability group and has members who have a developmental, psychiatric, sensory or physical disability. It also includes parents, and agencies that serve people with disabilities. The Commission addresses county policy issues such as transportation, housing, health care, mental wellness, telecommunications, and recreation. Cross disability input is critical to best advising the County Executive and County Council on what programs and services have barriers or meet the needs of all people with disabilities.

The Commission has for years advised the Recreation Department and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning on such things as the development of the accessible floating fishing pier, ramps and boats at Black Hills Regional Park and working with Recreation on the development of Hadley's Park. At this time, the Commission is advising the County and Park and Planning on the safety issues posed to individuals who are blind or who have a physical disability regarding bike lanes and floating bus stops. The Commission advises the Montgomery County, MD and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in establishing priorities to come into compliance with the settlement agreement with Project Civic Access of the Department of Justice. https://www.ada.gov/montgomery_co_pca/montgomery_co_sa.htm

Therapeutic Recreation has had a long-time member of the Commission and seeks advice on many programs. We know that the Montgomery County Recreation Department is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provides reasonable accommodations upon request.

Within Montgomery County, people with disabilities have been preferentially able to gain employment, receive tax incentives to make homes accessible, access safe public transportation, recreational programs and facilities previously unavailable to them.

Thus, the importance of the ADA is readily apparent: by specifically prohibiting discrimination and mandating equal opportunity and access for both employment and public services. The ADA has empowered individuals with disabilities and enabled people with disabilities to take an active role in society and make choices for themselves in how they live their life. The saying goes "Nothing about us, without us."

Thank you for your role in ensuring that County agencies comply and celebrate the ADA!

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Community Outreach Manager
Commission on Veterans Affairs - Commission on People with Disabilities

FY24 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES



**Commission on People with Disabilities
Montgomery County Council
FY24 Operating Budget Priorities for October 26, 2022
Seth Morgan, MD, Chair**

1. Transportation

- We recommend that the County prioritize pedestrian safety over all other MCDOT projects (such as installation of bicycle lanes and floating bus stops). **Sidewalk installation should be the top priority in all parts of the County with pedestrian safety being the prime emphasis of all MCDOT projects.** This emphasis must begin especially on roads leading to schools where there is no bus service and must continue until all roads in the County are made safe for all pedestrians. This will require the County to take legislative action to make sidewalks mandatory preventing homeowners from blocking sidewalk installation. Pedestrians being forced to walk in the street amongst car traffic should not be tolerated.
- Given the high pedestrian severe injury and death figures from vehicular accidents published by MCDOT, sidewalk installation must be accomplished before efforts at opening up County roads to bicycles. By and far, the number of severe pedestrian injuries outstrip those of bicycle accident injuries in number and must be addressed immediately.
- Provide funds to conduct the nationally recognized "Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity" certification training to Montgomery County drivers of taxicabs and wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- Provide gap-filling transportation services to older adults and residents with disabilities to prevent missed medical and other vital appointments (\$120,000).

2. County to Establish DD Advisory Council to the County Executive and County Council.

The Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities has voted to respectfully request the establishment of a County Developmental Disability (DD) Advisory Council independent of the Commission on People with Disabilities given the estimated over 40,000 persons of all ages who have a developmental disability living in our County. Of note, this includes addressing the racial equity and social issues surrounding the increase in the number of students by race who have a disability and are enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) special education. The County needs to ensure that there is a plan for engaging all families to ensure a positive transition to adult services. Of the 20,585 number of students in 2020 who were in MCPS special education, there was the following increases: Hispanic enrollment increased by 36.9%, African American by 26.5%, Asian by 7.9%, White students by 24.9% and for students who reported two or more races an increase of 4.5%. In the fall of 2020, total enrollment of students in MCPS was 160,561. The concerns and barriers faced by the entire DD population and their loved ones and caregivers overlap local and Statewide consideration and are complex. A dedicated, independent Advisory Council is needed to better educate and advise the County Government and allow better coordination at the State level. The State DDA has made ever growing changes to the waivers and services they provide; however, there are still significant gaps in services for those in the DD population with complex medical, behavioral, and mental health needs. This Council could also work to address the high unemployment rates of this population. The advisory group enabling legislation should give this Council the authority to advise the State Developmental Disability Administration and other State agencies as appropriate. The legislation should also include a full-time staff person to support the work of this group and include the number of meetings required to be held per year.

3. Support for Programs Serving People with Developmental Disabilities

The Commission supports the funding of the Developmental Disability Supplement. The supplement assists providers to pay a minimum of 125% minimum wage to direct care staff. There needs to be increased support for more services for transitioning youth, mental and behavioral health services for younger children and teens with disabilities including co-occurring disabilities. The County needs to ask DDA to provide increased education regarding self-directed services by the Coordinators of Community Services agencies.

FY24 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES CONTINUED

4. Support for Increased Access to Health and Mental health Care

The County should plan and conduct a Telecare/Telehealth demonstration project to improve access to healthcare and support services for older adults (\$250,000). Increase funding for mental health outreach for older adults (Senior Outreach Team) and people with disabilities to eliminate the waiting list for services and assist people to access proper referrals and care.

5. Early Intervention Screening Program for Children ages 0-3

Early diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in childhood has been shown to significantly decrease the lifelong severity of disabling deficits caused by this disorder in up to half of children treated. Availability of tools needed to screen and treat ASD in infants is most urgently needed especially in socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the County. We request the continued funding that was approved last May to monitored in its implementation for early intervention screening initiative for this year's budget of \$121,325 (\$621,148 over five years).

6. Establish a County Interagency Board for Employment of People with Disabilities and Designate Manager to Oversee Employment Programs and Outcomes for Contractors

People with disabilities face disproportionate barriers to employment. There is a need to coordinate/oversee the outcomes for all County funded employment programs under an interagency committee and County staff person with overall goals and results monitoring. We recommend that each County funded organization have the goal to have 3-5 performance measures related to outcomes for each contract, along with annual budget amount, so that better, more coordinated decisions can be made in the budgeting and contracting process for the employment of people with disabilities. Currently, there is a County special assistant that oversees Worksource Montgomery but does not oversee all employment contractors/agencies serving people with disabilities. The County spends over a million dollars per year to employ people with disabilities through AP 1-10 contracts in departments such as corrections and libraries. We recommend oversight of funding used for the purpose of employment for all populations.

7. Fund a Shelter for Riley's Lock for Protection near Accessible Canoe/Kayak Launch

The Commission applauds Montgomery Parks for the installation of the accessible launch for kayakers/canoers and other users at Riley's Lock (Seneca Landing Special Park). It is heavily used daily by the general public but is especially benefits people with disabilities (including severely disabled Veterans who were hospitalized at Walter Reed) for access to Seneca Creek and the Potomac River. It used to take an hour to get in the water for some and now about 1 minute. We recommend the County Council provide needed funding through the Parks CIP for the design and construction of a shelter for the picnic area for all but especially for people who have significant disabilities and who have temperature regulation issues to be safer and more comfortable while using and enjoying the park.

FY23 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES



Commission on People with Disabilities Montgomery County Council FY23 Operating Budget Priorities – April 19, 2022 Seth Morgan, MD, Chair

1. Transportation

- We recommend that the County prioritize pedestrian safety over all other MCDOT projects (such as installation of bicycle lanes and floating bus stops). **Sidewalk installation should be the top priority in all parts of the County with pedestrian safety being the prime emphasis of all MCDOT projects.** This emphasis must begin especially on roads leading to schools where there is no bus service and must continue until all roads in the County are made safe for all pedestrians. This will require the County to take legislative action to make sidewalks mandatory preventing homeowners from blocking sidewalk installation. Pedestrians being forced to walk in the street amongst car traffic should not be tolerated.
- Given the high pedestrian severe injury and death figures from vehicular accidents published by MCDOT, sidewalk installation must be accomplished before efforts at opening up County roads to bicycles. By and far, the number of severe pedestrian injuries outstrip those of bicycle accident injuries in number and must be addressed immediately.

2. Early Intervention Screening Program for Children ages 0-3

Early diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in childhood has been shown to significantly decrease the lifelong severity of disabling deficits caused by this disorder in up to half of children treated. Availability of tools needed to screen and treat ASD in infants is most urgently needed especially in socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the County. We support early intervention screening initiative for this year's budget of \$121,325 (\$621,148 over five years).

3. Funding to Supplement Programs Serving People with Developmental Disabilities

The Commission supports the funding of the Developmental Disability Supplement increasing by \$1.1 million to \$20.2 M this year. The supplement assists providers to pay a livable competitive wage to direct care staff.

4. Fund a Shelter for the Picnic Area at Riley's Lock

The Commission applauds Montgomery Parks for the installation of the accessible launch for kayakers/canoers and other users at Riley's Lock (Seneca Landing Special Park). It is used daily by the general public but is especially useful for people with disabilities (including disabled Veterans) for access to Seneca Creek and the Potomac River. We recommend the County Council provide needed funding through the Parks CIP for the design and construction of a shelter for the picnic area for all but especially for people who have disabilities and who have temperature regulation issues to be safer and more comfortable while using and enjoying the park.

5. Designate Manager to Oversee Employment Programs and Outcomes for Contractors

People with disabilities face disproportionate barriers to employment. There is a need to coordinate / oversee the outcomes for all County funded employment programs under a County staff person with overall goals and results monitoring. We recommend that each County funded organization have the goal to have 3-5 performance measures related to outcomes for each contract, along with annual budget amount, so that better, more coordinated decisions can be made in the budgeting and contracting process for the employment of people with disabilities. Currently, there is a County special assistant that oversees Worksource Montgomery but does not oversee all employment contractors/agencies serving people with disabilities. The County spends over a million dollars per year to employ people with disabilities through AP 1-10 contracts in departments such as corrections and libraries. We recommend oversight of funding used for the purpose of employment for all populations.

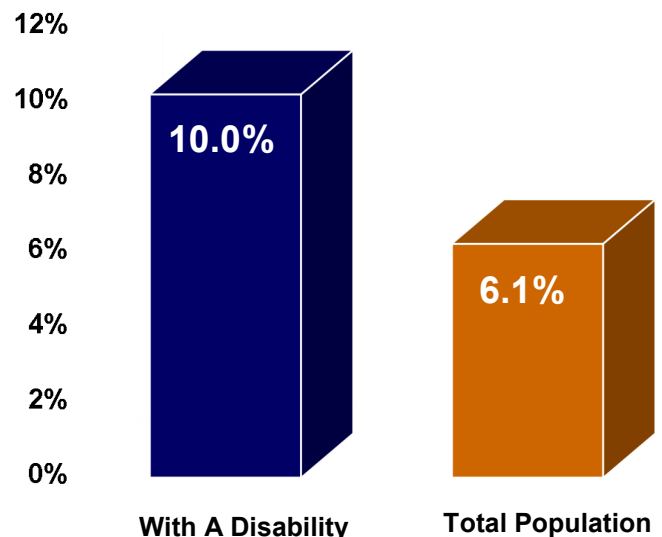
WHO HAS A DISABILITY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD? AN OVERVIEW

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, there are approximately **91,129 persons living in Montgomery County, MD with a disability**. These figures excluded individuals who reside in nursing homes or other institutions. **Please note:** Some individuals may have identified as having multiple disabilities and age population totals will not equal disability type totals. For cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, and self-care difficulty, the 'Population under 18 years' includes persons aged 5 to 17. Children under 5 are not included in these measures.

2021 Disability Characteristics - Montgomery County, MD

Total Population With A Disability: 91,129

Subject With A Disability	Total	Subject with a Disability	Total
Population under 5 years	656	Population 65 to 74 Years	15,337
With a hearing difficulty	621	With a hearing difficulty	5,707
With a vision difficulty	213	With a vision difficulty	2,503
Population 5 to 17 years	7,320	With a cognitive difficulty	2,896
With a hearing difficulty	775	With an ambulatory difficulty	7,948
With a vision difficulty	1,209	With a self-care difficulty	2,662
Population under 18 years		With an independent living difficulty	4,332
With a cognitive difficulty	5,261	Population 75 and older	25,653
With an ambulatory difficulty	782	With a hearing difficulty	10,463
With a self-care difficulty	1,632	With a vision difficulty	3,642
Population 18 to 34 Years	14,064	With a cognitive difficulty	5,880
With a hearing difficulty	1,466	With an ambulatory difficulty	16,052
With a vision difficulty	2,785	With a self-care difficulty	7,450
With a cognitive difficulty	10,882	With an independent living difficulty	13,993
With an ambulatory difficulty	1,523	Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021	
With a self-care difficulty	1,507		
With an independent living difficulty	5,390		
Population 35 to 64 years	28,099		
With a hearing difficulty	6,635		
With a vision difficulty	5,740	Unemployment Rate - Montgomery County, MD 16 Years and Older - Labor Force Participation Non-Institutionalized Civilian Population	
With a cognitive difficulty	9,946		
With an ambulatory difficulty	11,640		
With a self-care difficulty	4,102		
With an independent living difficulty	8,390		



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of Montgomery County Public School Students with Disabilities Ages 3 - 21 Receiving Special Education Services

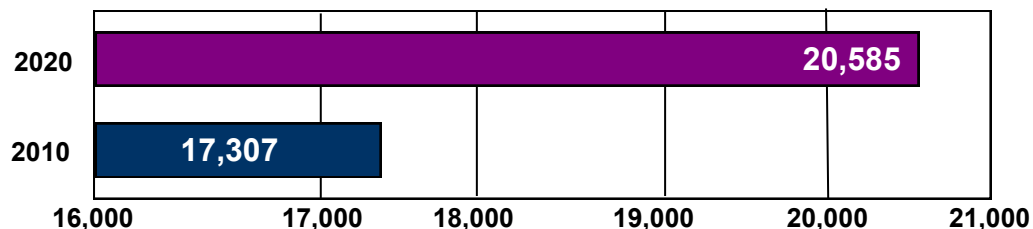
As of October 2020, there were **20,585** students with disabilities enrolled in Special Education. This population makes up **12.8%** of the County's total school enrollment of 160,564 students.

Disability Type	# of Students 2020	# of Students 2019	% Between 2020 and 2019
Autism	3,049	2,918	+ 4.5%
Deaf	82	79	+ 3.8%
Deaf-Blind	3	4	- 25%
Developmental Delay	3,442	3,598	- 4.3%
Developmental Delay (Extended IFSP)	310	99	+ 213.1%
Emotional Disability	816	883	- 7.6%
Hearing Impairment	141	139	+ 1.4%
Intellectual Disability	599	616	- 2.7%
Multiple Disabilities	550	506	+ 8.7%
Orthopedic Impairment	15	17	- 11.8%
Other Health Impairment	3,441	3,377	+ 1.9%
Specific Learning Disability	6,234	6,389	- 2.4%
Speech and Language Impairment	1,831	1,821	+ 0.5%
Traumatic Brain Injury	20	17	+ 17.6%
Visual Impairment	52	48	+ 8.3%
Total	20,585	20,511	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2020

Montgomery County School Enrollment - Special Education Ages 3 to 21

Special Education enrollment has **increased by 3,278 students or 18.9%** over the last ten years.



of students ages 3 - 21 enrolled in Special Education in Montgomery County Public Schools

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2020

Students with Disabilities By Race Compared with General Education Students By Race - Ages 3 to 21

SWD = Students with Disabilities / GE = General Education (includes students with disabilities)

	Grand Total	Asian		Black or African American		White		Hispanic		Two or More Races	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
SWD	20,585	1,625	7.9%	5,469	26.5%	5,122	24.9%	7,387	35.9%	929	4.5%
GE	160,564	22,941	14.3%	34,993	21.8%	41,455	25.8%	52,628	32.8%	8,097	5.0%

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2020

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

- [Developmental Disabilities - Montgomery County Disability Network Directory](#)
- [Autism Resources - Montgomery County Disability Network Directory](#)

Montgomery County Public Schools Programs for Children with Developmental Disabilities/Delays

- [Infants & Toddlers](#)
- [Child Find](#)
- [Autism Waiver](#)
- [School to Work Transition Services Unit](#)
- [Connecting School and Adult Life Brochure](#) (PDF)

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

301-362-1500 (Voice) • 301-362-5131 (TTY) • 1-888-207-2479 (Toll Free)

To determine eligibility for DDA funded services, individuals must apply to Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration for these programs that are then administered by local [Coordination of Community Services Agencies](#).

- Behavior Support
- Individual and Family Support
- Coordination of Community Services
- Employment
- Housing
- Low Intensity Support Services
- Nursing
- Self-Directed Services
- Transitioning Youth with Disabilities



Step-by-Step Guide to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Process

Potomac Community Resources, in collaboration with DDA, has produced five short videos to help families and developmental disability professionals throughout the State of Maryland learn about the services and supports offered by DDA and how to access them. All videos include ASL simultaneous interpretation.

www.pcr-inc.org/step-by-step-guide-to-the-developmental-disabilities-administration-process

Update - DDA - Skilled Nursing Care and Adult Medical Day Care Meeting - August 2022

Carol Beatty, Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), spoke with Odile Brunetto, Chief, Aging & Disability Services, Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services, regarding the meeting MDOD convened with DDA and Medicaid a few weeks ago to discuss skilled nursing care and adult medical day care. The Board of Nursing could not attend due to a scheduling conflict. After the meeting, Secretary Beatty briefed the Board of Nursing on the discussion. They all agreed that these issues need to be worked on at the **state** level. Medical Day Care needs to be worked on as it is not a good option for most young people. They all agreed to meet again in late September 2022 or October 2022. They will be opening the process to stakeholders, providers and family members. They are planning to include these issues in the transition plan that state departments are preparing for new the administration. They will be asking for a workgroup to be established to resolve the barriers and to make any needed recommendations. The Maryland Association of Community Services is interested in being part of this process.

Revenue for County DD Providers

The projected FY23 DDA revenue for all 41 County providers in the supplement is \$278,091,397. The County does not have the data on the actual revenue received for the agencies. In addition, the County supplements by \$20.1 million.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

Community Support Network (CSN) - Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Aging and Disability Services, 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20850, 240-777-1216 (Voice)

Provides services that enable individuals to remain in their home or in the least restrictive environment and provides general support, guidance, and assistance to clients with developmental disabilities and their families.

- The **My Turn program** provides support and assistance to families with children ages three to thirteen who have developmental disabilities and are not connected with State of Maryland resources. Services include outreach, assistance with summer camp placements and other programmatic and financial assistance.
- CSN also **conducts site visits to group homes** that serve developmentally disabled clients in the County and monitors contracts that provide services to people with various disabilities including visual and hearing impairments.
- CSN **Autism Waiver** staff coordinate with Montgomery County Public Schools staff and monitor services for children (ages 0 - 21) in the program who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Through the Autism Waiver Program, students and families receive respite care, environmental accessibility adaptations, family training, supported adult life planning, and intensive individual support services in the home and community, therapeutic integration service, service coordination and, in some cases, residential habilitation.
- The **Coordination of Community Services (CCS)** program is one of six agencies in the County that provides case management services to eligible school to work transition students and adults people who have developmental disabilities and are eligible for the Maryland DDA Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver services.
- **Respite Services** provides short-term temporary relief to unpaid live-in caregivers/families who are providing full-time care to children with severe medical conditions, children/adults with disabilities, or frail seniors. Care is provided by trained, certified care workers in the family's home or in a respite care facility. Services provided by The Arc through a county contract.
- CSN provides County **financial assistance to State-funded providers** who serve adults with developmental disabilities.

MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION WAITING LIST

Data from Onesta Duke, Southern Maryland Regional Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration, Maryland Department of Health - From Montgomery County - As of September 12, 2022 – fluctuates day by day

- 949 on State DDA waiting list – these persons currently receive no services
 - 8 in crisis resolution (need services within 3 months)
 - ⇒ These individuals are currently working with an assigned CCS provider to initiate waiver enrollment and identify placement as soon as possible to mitigate crisis. There are some challenges with CCSs identifying providers due to capacity issues. CCSs are exploring providers statewide, not just in this region.
 - 46 in crisis prevention (need services within a year)
 - 895 current request

Notes: Developmentally Disabled only; Supports Only excluded.

AUTISM WAIVER WAITING LIST

The Autism Waiver is administered by the Maryland Department of Education through local schools.

Data from Daniel Hammond, Coordinator, The Medicaid Home & Community-Based Autism Waiver Program, Montgomery County Public Schools

Autism Waiver Registry - As of February 2021

Statewide number of students on the Registry: About 6,200

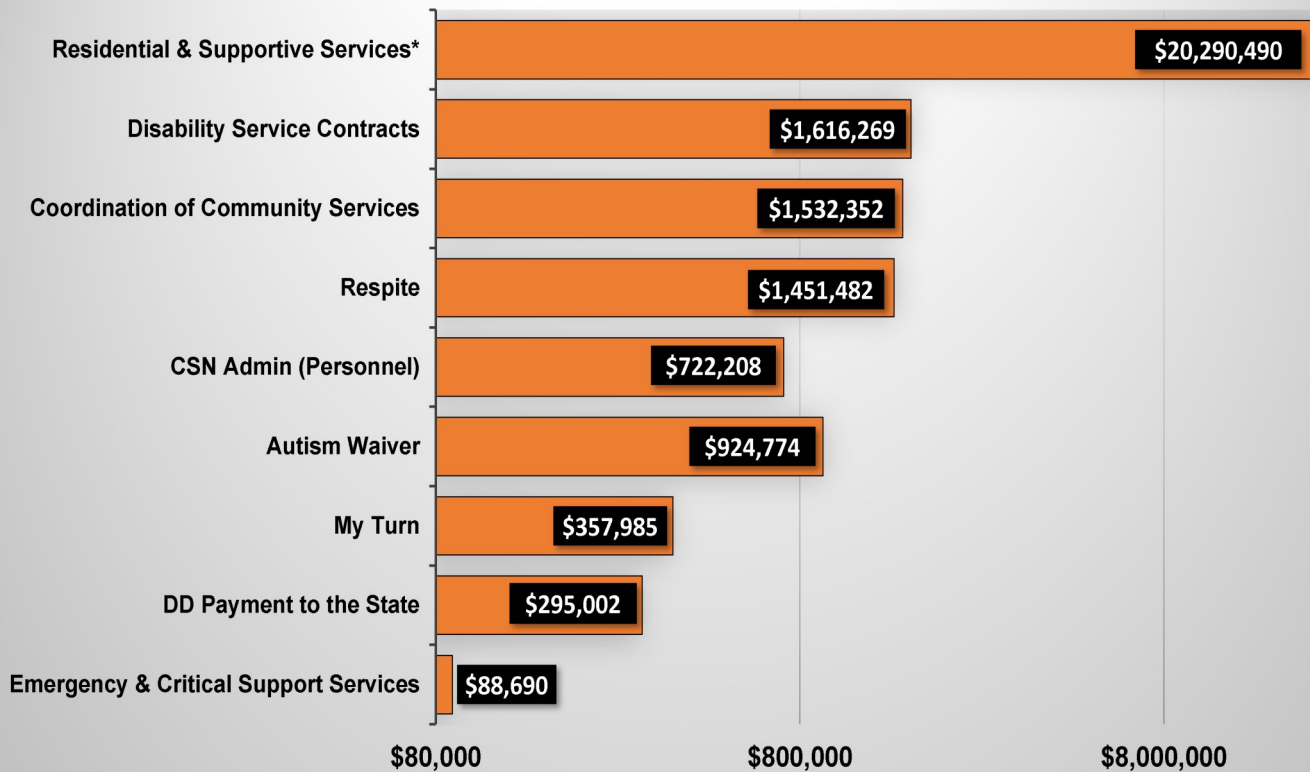
Registry for Montgomery County: 1,450 (This does not include enrolled students)

Note: Not all students on the Registry will qualify for the Autism Waiver Program and not all students on the Registry are enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

As of October 2022, the Montgomery County Autism Waiver Program currently has 340 participants and statewide there are 1,400 students in the program. No diagnosis is made prior to being put on the waiting list.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK (CSN) FY23 BUDGET BY PROGRAM

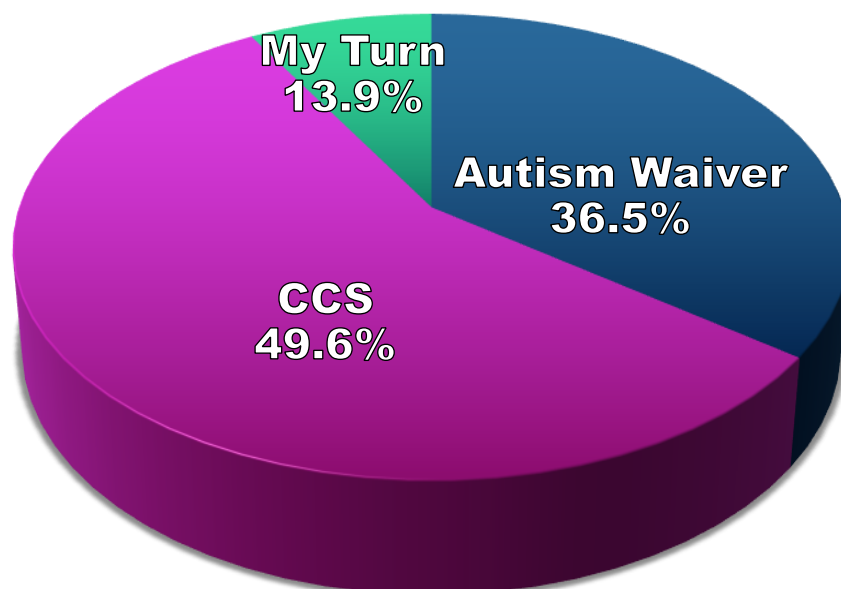
Total CSN Budget: \$27,279,252



*Residential & Support Services includes support to DD service providers.

CSN BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM

Total CSN Clients: 892
Coordination of Community Services (CCS): 443 clients
Autism Waiver: 326 clients
My Turn: 123 clients



Data as of August 2022

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

240-567-5188 (V) • E-mail: wdce@montgomerycollege.edu
www.montgomerycollege.edu/workforce-development-continuing-education

The Graduate Transition Program, (GTP)

The [Graduate Transition Program](#) at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, is a custom-tailored learning community program that offers students a unique post-secondary opportunity to further their formal education. The objective of the program is to enable students, while in a supportive college environment, to transition to greater independent living through developmentally appropriate educational, vocational, and life-skill services. This two-year, tuition-based, credit-free certificate program focuses on basic academic skills, and enhances students' potential success as productive citizens in the community.

The College schedule consists of two 14-week semesters, for two years. Students receive academic instruction 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday. Small class sizes, experienced faculty and staff, and individual classroom assistants encourage an interactive and dynamic learning environment designed specifically for students with special needs. Classes offered include Reading and Writing, Science, Health, Anatomy, World History and Current Events, Communications and Public Speaking, Art, Computers, and more. During the student's two-year period, Montgomery College works with the DDA providers to offer volunteer position, internships, and paid employment. This program is offered on the Rockville campus of Montgomery College.

Connecting Reading and Writing Program

This program connects [Reading and Writing Skills](#) students need to prepare for college level course work. The program is designed to enhance reading comprehension, writing skills, and build vocabulary. Students learn and practice reading and writing skills by enrolling in both courses.

During 25 sessions, students receive instruction in reading comprehension and vocabulary building. Students learn to identify the main idea, follow a sequence of events, and recognize supporting details. Students improve their writing and speaking skills when they learn to summarize and outline reading materials, take better notes, and build your vocabulary. The program offers students the tools necessary to develop better writing skills. Reading and writing skills are combined in this class in a comprehensive, systematic process. Students learn to write descriptive and narrative paragraphs, use punctuation correctly, and compose demonstration speeches. The program helps prepare students for the college's assessment test, Accuplacer.

This program is offered on the Rockville and Takoma Park campuses of Montgomery College.

Driver's Education with Additional Support

This course provides the exact same MVA curriculum as SFT-043 Driver Education, but with built-in supports. Montgomery College's Driving School and its instructors are Maryland MVA licensed and certified. Their additional support instructors are dually certified in Special Education. This course, in a small classroom environment, prepares rookie drivers to test for a Maryland driver's license. Additional Supports include, but are not limited to:

- Differentiated instruction, supplemental aides and supports including a multi-sensory approach to learning.
- Behind the wheel is one-on-one instruction with a dually certified MVA and MSDE Special Education Educator
- Smaller class size
- Quizzes and tests are read aloud
- Extra time is granted to students for quizzes and tests
- Manipulatives (by cars) are used to better explain situations
- A copy of all PowerPoints and instructor notes are provided to the student.

If you have a Disability Support Request you need to call Natalie Martinez, Workforce Development and Continuing Education Counselor at 240-567-4118 (V) or email Natalie.Martinez@montgomerycollege.edu at least four weeks prior to the start of the class to arrange for accommodations and/or assistive technology.

DESIGN FOR LIFE PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Make your home accessible with a Montgomery County Tax Credit



DESIGNFORLIFE
Every home accessible for everyone.



designforlifemc.org



View [Home Modification & Design Consultation](#) for a resource listing of Government /Building Codes, Assessment and Consultation, Architects, and Renovation and Construction

Design for Life, managed by the Department of Permitting Services, provides partial tax credits to property owners or home builders who install measures that improve accessibility, visit-ability and/or live-ability of residential homes. This legislation was promoted through efforts of the Commission for People with Disabilities and embraced by the County Council and the County Executive. For retrofits to existing single family homes, such accessibility measures can include things like installing entry doors wide enough for wheelchairs, providing a no-step entry into the home, improving bathroom access with grab bars or roll-in showers, wider doorways, etc. This model program was initiated in Montgomery County to improve the ability of all residents to manage more successfully in homes, to improve people's ability to age in place and to make homes more accessible to visitors of all ages.

Credits are available for accessibility features added to single family homes and condominiums. Tax credits for improvements that make a home qualify as a visitable or livable home are available for single family homes and townhouses. If you add a feature and it costs at least \$500 up to \$2,500 you get a 50% credit. If you make your home visitable the credit is \$3,000 and if you make it livable the credit is \$10,000, credit max is \$2,000 per year. For more information view www.montgomerycountymd.gov/design/Resources/Files/PDF/DFLTaxCreditIncentiveTable.pdf.

The process for building permits with Design for Life (DFL) features is as follows:

1. When a building permit with Design for Life (DFL) features has received the final inspection for the project from the Department of Permitting Services (DPS), the homeowner/applicant must complete and submit the DFL tax credit application (see attached).
2. The applicant must submit the required documentation along with tax credit application, which consists of contracts, receipts, and invoices to demonstrate the cost or amount of money spent for the project along with a complete list of features and costs of each feature.
3. The application is then reviewed and DPS signs off on the affidavit.
4. The tax credit application package is then sent to the Finance Office electronically to process the tax credit information.

Download Design for Life Property Tax Incentive application:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/design/Resources/Files/PDF/DesignForLifeApplicationforTaxCredit.pdf



Who Needs An Accessible Home? You Do!

1. Live longer in the home you love.
2. Welcome all guests with diverse mobility.
3. Increase the value of your home.
4. Qualify for property tax credits.
5. Make everyone feel welcome.

DESIGN FOR LIFE PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM - AT A GLANCE

Accessibility	Property Tax Credit— runs with property	School Impact Tax Credit	Applicability	Program annual limit	Type of residence ownership
Feature 1. no-step front door entrance or a no-step entrance to another location providing access to the main living space 2. ramp creating a no-step entrance 3. interior doorway w/32-inch clear opening 4. exterior doorway w/32-inch clear opening + exterior lighting controlled from inside the residence or automatic or continuously on; 5. walls around a toilet, tub, or shower reinforced and properly installed grab bars 6. maneuverable bathroom or kitchen 7. an exterior or interior elevator or lift or stair glide unit; 8. accessibility-enhanced bathroom, including a walk-in or roll-in shower or tub 9. alarm, appliance, and control structurally integrated to assist with a sensory disability	50% of eligible costs Up to \$2500 less other subsidy Amount of credit that exceeds tax imposed carries over	NA	Expenditures in excess of \$500 Incurred within 12 months of application	\$100,000	Multi-family condo Attached sf Detached sf
Level I (Visitable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> permanent addition single family residence at least one no-step entrance connected to an accessible route to a place to visit on the entry level a usable powder room or bathroom, and a 32-inch nominal clear width interior door 	Up to \$3000 less other subsidy including school impact tax credit Maximum credit to be applied in any tax year is \$2000 and excess credit carries over	5% of the single family houses in project- \$500/Level I house 10% of the single family houses in project- \$1,000/Level I house 25% of the single family houses in project- \$1,500/Level I house 30% of the single family houses in project- \$2,000/level I house Applies only where there is no bonus density for DFL units	Expenditures in excess of \$500 Incurred within 12 months of application	\$500,000	Attached or detached single family
Level II (livable) Visitable criteria above PLUS Accessible circulation path that connects the accessible entrance to an accessible kitchen, a full bath, and at least one accessible bedroom	Up to \$10,000 less other subsidy including school impact tax credit Maximum credit to be applied in any tax year is \$2000 and excess credit carries over	NA	Expenditures in excess of \$500 Incurred within 12 months of application	\$500,000	Attached or detached single family

DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY



An online directory of providers, agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd

Find resources and information on the following topics:

- Access & ADA-Related Issues including Curb Cuts & Sidewalks
- Adaptive & Medical Equipment
- Adult Medical Day Centers
- Advocacy
- AIDS/HIV Resources
- Assistive Technology
- Autism Resources
- Behavioral Health, Counseling & Wellness Supports
- Blind/Low Vision Resources including Macular Degeneration
- Brain Injury Resources
- Camps - Day and Summer
- Caregiver Supports
- Case Management
- Centers for Independent Living
- Child Care including Arc Programs
- Children & Youth Services
- Clothing
- Commissions on People with Disabilities (Statewide & Regional)
- Communication Resources
- Computer Support/Training
- Conflict Resolution
- Consumer Protection
- Counseling
- Deaf Resources including Sign Language Interpreting Services & Cart Reporting
- Deaf-Blind Resources
- Dental Services
- Design for Life Property Tax Incentive
- Developmental Disabilities
- Disability Specific Resources
- Education Resources - Adults
- Education - Children & Youth including Assessment Services
- Emergency Resources
- Employment including Employment Funding, Business Assistance & Job Lines / Websites
- Estate Planning
- Evacuations & Disaster Resources
- Faith-Based Resources
- Financial including Financial Assistance, Financial Counseling & Financial Loans / Grants for
- Accessibility
- Food including HELP, Food Warehouses, Pantries and Soup Kitchens, Home Delivery & Preparation
- Furniture
- Government - Local Depts of Social Services
- Hard of Hearing Resources
- Health & Wellness
- Health Insurance
- Home Care Services - Funding Resources
- Home Care and Home Health Providers
- Hospice Services
- Hospitals
- Housing including Housing Advisors / Older Adults, Housing Providers, Financial Assistance, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), Legal Issues, Home Modifications & Design Consultation, & Ramp, Lift, Elevator & Automated Door Providers/ Installation
- Independent Living Skills
- Learning Disabilities including Testing & Diagnostic Services
- Legal Services including Disability Law Attorneys, Estate Law Attorneys, & Free, Low Cost & Pro Bono
- Legislation
- Loan Closets
- Long Term Care
- Medicaid Waivers
- Medical Care Services
- Medication Resources
- Parenting Supports
- Parking
- Property Tax Credits - County, State & Federal
- Recreation
- Respite Care
- Service Animals
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Substance Abuse
- Support Groups including Sibling Support
- Transitioning Youth
- Transportation
- Veterans
- Volunteer Services

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMEMORATES 44TH YEAR

The County Commission on Handicapped Individuals was established by the County Council on October 17, 1978. In October of 1977, County Executive James Gleason established a Task Force on Concerns of the Handicapped. Their Task Force report in June, 1978 later led to the County Council taking this action. This month the Commission celebrates 44 years of advising the County on disability issues and concerns. The Commission was located in the Office of Family Resources and at that time Chuck Short was the Director of that Office.

Effective November 9, 1990, the Commission was renamed in Bill 49-90 to the Commission on People with Disabilities and added four more slots for people with disabilities. Over the years, the Commission has benefitted greatly from the strong support of all County Executives and County Council Members to have this County become a leader in the nation on disability issues. We have also benefitted greatly from our many citizens/former Commissioners who have worked for the federal government on disability issues. Former Commission member Larry Roffee went on to be the first Executive Director of the US Access Board, and now David Capozzi who is also a former Commissioner is now the Executive Director there. The Commission has served under County Executives James Gleason, Charles Gilchrist, Sidney Kramer, Neal Potter, Douglas Duncan and Isiah Leggett.

Commission's Key Advocacy/Advisory Highlights:

- [Bill 46-09 - Personnel - Regulations - Persons with Disabilities - Hiring Preference](#) (effective February 2, 2010 and applies to persons with disabilities, Veterans, and Veterans with disabilities) - **NACO 2014 Achievement Award Winner** - Mark Maxin, Assistant General Counsel for Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and former Commissioner was instrumental in making legal cases on both employment bills for the Commission
- [Bill 32-12 - Personnel - Regulations - Persons with Disabilities - Noncompetitive Appointment](#) (effective February 5, 2013 - 80% of voters voted to adopt) Noncompetitive hiring preference for people with severe disabilities
- [Bill 5-13 - Property Tax Credit - Accessibility Features](#) (enacted November 19, 2013 - **Design for Life Property Tax Incentive Program** that provides property tax credits up to \$10,000 for levels of accessibility installed in new construction and existing homes - **NACO 2018 Achievement Award Winner**
- HOC and Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital in the establishment of 6 accessible apartments at **Metro Pointe** for younger adults who were living in nursing homes **Montgomery's Best Honor Awards Recipient 2008**
- [Zoning Text Amendment 06-17](#) permits by right vs a zoning variance unroofed and open structure in an easement including a ramp and chairlift that allows a person with a physical disability access to a one family dwelling and is exterior to the one family dwelling
- [Resolution 16-931 - Policy Regarding the Use of Brick and Other Pavements in the Public Right-of-Way](#) for County sidewalks particularly red brick pavers
- County purchasing **accessible Ride On busses in 1978** before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- [Pedestrian Winter Safety Act of 2001](#) - Snow removal legislation
- [Respect the Space](#) program to assess proper parking signage so it can be enforced by the police department
- Establishment of a Center for Independent Living or **Independence Now**
- Installation of the **elevator at the Marc Train station** in Rockville

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMEMORATES 44TH YEAR CONTINUED

- **Scattered site housing** for people with mental illness and other disabilities
- Department of Transportation on **access issues for people who are blind** in downtown Silver Spring
- Evaluating and working closely with the **Strathmore** on making the Music Center and Mansion accessible and user-friendly for people with disabilities
- Assessing ADA compliance in 200+ **polling places** in partnership with the Montgomery County Board of Elections
- **Assistive Listening Systems** in County buildings: The Commission Sent a request to Strathmore Hall to make neck loops an option for guests. Strathmore responded that they have neck loops and that they will be training staff to ensure that patrons know that is an option. Initiated effort to have HHS install integrated audio loop systems in with public address system into designated meeting rooms. Pushed for a clause to be included in mental health service proposals that makes it clear that those services must be inclusive, i.e., must provide assistive listening devices for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, both for group sessions and one-on-one therapy. County contract now includes provision for CART (Computer Assisted Real-time Captioning) accommodations and other provisions. Advocated for trial VRS/VRI installation in two locations in the county, possibly in libraries. VRI would to allow people who are deaf and hard of hearing people who have not made an appointment to be provided access when they walk in for services. VRS would allow deaf and hard of hearing people to place phone calls using sign language. Montgomery County now has a free emergency notification system for the public which is a tremendous benefit for deaf and hard of hearing people who rely on their wireless devices or email. To sign up go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on "Alert Montgomery".
- **Community Support Services** for people with developmental disabilities reinstated to provide 500 persons with Coordination of Community Services
- Montgomery County Government on **compliance with the ADA**
- **US Department of Justice Project Civic Access Settlement Agreement** including Montgomery Parks
- **Waivers from the Maryland Accessibility Code** per State law as recognized local disability advisory group
- Advising County on **pedestrian safety issues** and safety concerns about floating bus stops and bike lanes.
- **Bill 33-15 Transportation Service Improvement Fund**: Established the fund based on placing a 25 cent surcharge on all Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft, etc.) for rides originating in Montgomery County with the fund designated to be used to promote accessible vehicle ride availability in the County In order to establish the fund, permission was sought and obtained from the Maryland State Government.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COVID-19 PANDEMIC INFORMATION PORTAL

The COVID-19 Pandemic has put a strain on all residents and especially on vulnerable populations including children and adults with disabilities. The County is committed to minimizing the detrimental effects on COVID-19 and to maintain long-term access to services, community engagement and social engagement. Many aspects of all of our lives have been impacted including the need for readily accessible reliable information and available resources on topics such as general medical care resources, mental wellness and behavioral health care, food security, safe housing, personal safety, freedom to worship without fear, etc.,.

We encourage you to use the Montgomery County COVID-19 Information Portal:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/get-help/>

***Stay Positive, Test Negative
Go Outside, Call a Friend, Get Some Exercise, Stay Connected***

American Council of the Blind COVID-19 Resources

<https://acb.org/acb-covid19-response>

EveryMind COVID-19 Coping with Anxiety and Stress

<https://www.every-mind.org/7493-2/>

Maryland Department of Disabilities COVID-19 Resources

<http://mdod.maryland.gov/news/Pages/Covid-resources.aspx>

National Federation of the Blind

<https://www.nfb.org/resources/covid-19-resources>

National Deaf Center COVID-19 Resources

<https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/covid-19-information>

National Multiple Sclerosis COVID Resources

<https://www.nationalmssociety.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information>

COVID-19 Special Considerations for People with Spinal Cord Injury

<https://kesslerfoundation.org/info/covid-19-and-spinal-cord-injury-minimizing-risks-complications>

TEXT-TO-911 NOW AVAILABLE IN MARYLAND

For Immediate Release: Thursday, August 20, 2020

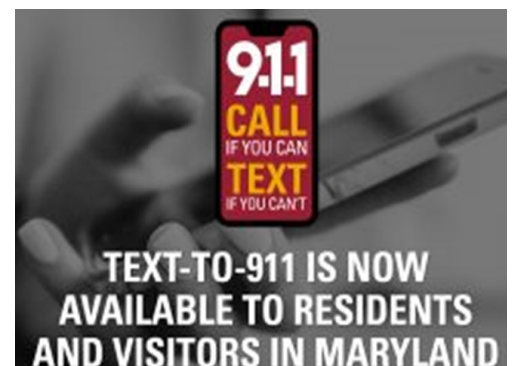
If you're experiencing an emergency and are unable to place a voice call, you can send a text to 911. Follow these steps to request emergency services:

Enter 911 in the "To" line.

1. Enter a brief message that includes the location of the emergency and type of service needed – police, fire, or ambulance.
2. Hit send.
3. Respond to questions from the responding 911 specialist and follow the instructions he or she provides.

Tips for using text-to-911:

- If text-to-911 is not available in your area, or if it is temporarily unavailable, you should receive a message from your carrier letting you know to place a phone or relay call.
- Pictures and/or videos cannot be received by 911 via text
- If you include another contact on your text it may not be received by 911
- English is the preferred language for text, however, some limited translation services may be available
- Text in short, simple messages; Do not use abbreviations or slang
- Do not text and drive



SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESOURCES

- [File of Life - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Smoke Alarm Program - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Fire Safety Checklist for Older Adults - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Fire Safety for Children with Special Needs - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Fire Safety for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(Visual Smoke Alarms\) - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Falls Prevention - Free Home Safety Evaluations - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Autism, Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities \(IDD\) and Alzheimer's Outreach Program – Montgomery County Police Department](#)

STAY ALERT!

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts from **Alert Montgomery**. Montgomery County officials can use this alerting system to contact you before or during a major crisis, emergency, or severe weather alert. Alerts MAY be broadcast via the following delivery methods:

- E-mail account (work, home, other)
- Cell phone (SMS Text)
- Everbridge Mobile Member App
- Home phone (Voice)
- Cell phone (Voice)
- TTY device
- Twitter: Following “@ReadyMontgomery”
- Facebook: Add “Montgomery County MD Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security” in friends

While signing up for Alert Montgomery is free of charge, your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive text messages.

<https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>



Montgomery County encourages all residents to put together a plan for emergencies. The County has emergency response plans in place for dealing with emergencies from snow storms to terrorist attacks.

However, each person is strongly encouraged to develop their own personal plan. Montgomery County has developed the Plan 9 Guide for residents. It is a simple guide to nine essential items to help residents shelter in-place during emergencies.

We also encourage people to request a File of Life that allows you to fill out your medical history and rescue personnel are trained to look for this File on your refrigerator. To request a File of Life, call the Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Resource Unit: 240-777-3000 (V), 240-777-2545 (TTY), or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS



Collect these **nine essential items** to help you shelter-in-place in the event of an emergency.



1. Water: One gallon per person per day for three days. Replace the water every 6 months.



2. Food: Non-perishables such as canned or packaged food. Enough to last 3 to 5 days per person.



3. Clothes: One change of clothes and footwear per person. Consider packing blankets, rain-gear, and outerwear in case of severe weather.



4. Medications: Three days worth of prescription medications. Be sure to mark the expiration dates and change as needed.



5. Flashlight: A bright flashlight and extra batteries. Do not use candles as they are fire hazards.



6. Can Opener: Manual can opener in case there's no electric power. Buying foods with pull-open cans is also helpful.



7. Radio: Battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Crank operated or solar powered radios are also helpful.



8. Hygiene Items: Basics like soap, toilet paper and a toothbrush. Moist toiles are useful.



9. First Aid: Basics like antiseptic, gloves, bandages, and non-prescription medicines. Many stores have pre-made kits.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Marc Elrich**

The **County Executive** can be reached at:

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

240-777-0311 (V)

240-773-3556 (TTY)

County.Executive1Q@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

The **County Council** can be reached at:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

240-777-7900 (V)

MD Relay 711 (TTY)

240-777-7989 (FAX)

county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

*Standing: Hans Riemer, Gabe Albornoz (President), Craig Rice, Andrew Friedson, and Tom Hucker.
Seated, left to right: Will Jawando, Sidney Katz, Nancy Navarro and Evan Glass (Vice-President).*

Marc Elrich, County Executive

Raymond Crowel, Director

Odile Brunetto, Chief

**Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services, Commission on People with Disabilities**

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor

Rockville, Maryland 20850

240-777-1252(V) ♦ via MD Relay at 711

MCCPWD@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission, please call the telephone numbers or write to the
address listed above or e-mail via the contact information listed below.**

*Montgomery County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in
employment or in the admission or access to its programs or services.*

2021 - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY:

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*

Carly Clem, *Administrative Specialist I*